

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 16-20 are new. Claims 1-20 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanklin et al in view of Hooper. Shanklin teaches multiple sensors connected at an internetworking device for detecting unauthorized signatures to or from a local network. Paragraphs 24 and 43 of Hooper describe using a hash value to perform a table lookup. Neither Shanklin nor Hooper teaches assigning the data packet by using "a number of bits of the hash value, wherein the number of bits used is determined at least in part by the number of processors included in said plurality of processors" as amended in claim 1, 14, and 15. Support for the amendment can be found without limitation on lines 3-13 on page 14 of the specification.

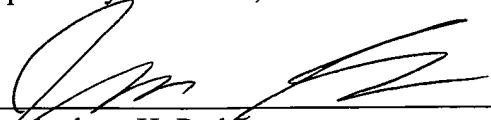
Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1 and are believed to allowable for the same reasons described above.

New claims 16-20 depend from claim 15 and are believed to allowable for the same reasons described above.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/18/06

  
Jong Andrew H. Park  
Registration No. 56,917  
V 408-973-2577  
F 408-973-2595

VAN PELT, YI & JAMES LLP  
10050 N. Foothill Blvd., Suite 200  
Cupertino, CA 95014